

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-23 and 25-32 are pending, with claims 1, 13 and 15 being independent. Claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the cancelled subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claims 1, 13, 15, 31, and 32 have been amended to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim the invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 13, 15, 31, and 32 can be found in the specification, including, for example, in the claims and at page 18, paragraphs [00099]-[000103]. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

The specification, paragraph [00050] on pages 5 and 6 has been amended to insert patent numbers for the issued U.S. patent application referenced therein and to remove a reference to an incorrect U.S. patent application number (i.e., U.S.S.N. 10/012,547). Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added.

Applicants initially would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-12, 17-21, 24, 31, and 32 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 13-16, 22, 23 and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 1, 13 and 15 have been amended merely to expedite prosecution. As such, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to insert specific temperature and pressure ranges. Further, claim 13 has been amended to clarify "the hydroprocessed feedstock" in step (c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

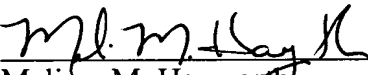
Conclusion

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claims 1, 13, 15, 31 and 32 have been amended, as provided above, to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim particularly preferred embodiments of Applicants' invention and to pursue an early allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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